

# MISHLE

## THE PROVERBS OF KING SALOMON MAY HIS MERIT SHIELD US

### CHAPTER 1

#### **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction**

1 The proverbs of Salomon the son of David, king of Israel; 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain to wise counsels; 6 To understand a proverb, and a figure; the words of the wise, and their riddles. 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and forsake not the Torah of your mother; 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace to your head, and chains around your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. 11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay in wait for blood, let us lurk for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them up alive like Sheol; and whole, like those who go down into the pit; 13 We shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; 14 Cast in your lot among us; let us all have one purse; 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them; refrain your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. 18 And they lay in wait for their own blood; they lurk secretly for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of every one who is greedy of gain; it takes away the life of its owners. 20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street; she utters her voice in the squares; 21 She cries in the chief place of concourse, at the entrance of the gates; in the city she utters her words, saying, 22 How long, you simple ones, will you love being simple? And how long will scorners delight in their scorning? And fools hate knowledge? 23 Turn at my reproof; behold, I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make known my words to you. 24 Because I have called, and you refused; I have

stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; 25 But you have ignored all my counsel, and would have none of my reproof; 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear comes; 27 When your fear comes like a storm, and your calamity comes like a stormy wind; when distress and anguish comes upon you. 28 Then shall they call on me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me; 29 For they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord; 30 They would have none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof. 31 Therefore they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. 32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. 33 But whoever listens to me shall dwell safely, and shall be at ease without fear of evil.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the innocent shall remain in it.**

1 My son, if you will receive my words, and treasure my commandments; 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; 3 Indeed, if you cry after knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her like silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then shall you understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of G-d. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. 7 He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous; he is a shield to those who walk uprightly. 8 He keeps the paths of judgment, and preserves the way of his pious ones. 9 Then shall you understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; every good path. 10 When wisdom enters into your heart, and knowledge is precious to your soul; 11 Discretion shall preserve you, understanding shall keep you; 12 To save you from the way of the evil man, from the man who speaks perverse things; 13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perverseness of the wicked; 15 Whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; 16 To save you from the alien woman, from the stranger who speaks smoothly; 17 Who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her G-d. 18 For her house inclines to death, and her paths to the dead. 19 None that go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. 20 That you may walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous. 21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the innocent

shall remain in it. 22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding**

1 My son, forget not my Torah; but let your heart keep my commandments; 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to you. 3 Let not grace and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart; 4 So shall you find favor and good understanding in the sight of G-d and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to your navel, and marrow to your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your produce; 10 So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats shall burst out with new wine. 11 My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; nor be weary of his correction; 12 For whom the Lord loves he corrects; like a father does with a son in whom he delights. 13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding. 14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and its gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies; and all the things you can desire are not to be compared to her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold on her; and happy is every one who holds her fast. 19 The Lord by wisdom has founded the earth; by understanding has he established the heavens. 20 By his knowledge the depths were broken up, and the clouds drop down dew. 21 My son, let not them depart from your eyes; keep sound wisdom and discretion; 22 So shall they be life to your soul, and grace to your neck. 23 Then shall you walk in your way safely, and your foot shall not stumble. 24 When you lie down, you shall not be afraid; indeed, you shall lie down, and your sleep shall be sweet. 25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, nor of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes. 26 For the Lord shall be your confidence, and shall keep your foot from being caught. 27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it. 28 Say not to your neighbor, Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give, when you have it by you. 29 Do not plot evil against your neighbor, seeing he dwells

securely by you. 30 Do not strive without cause with a man, if he has done you no harm. 31 Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. 32 For the perverse is abomination to the Lord; but the righteous are in his confidence. 33 The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked; but he blesses the habitation of the just. 34 Surely he scorns the scorers; but he gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise shall inherit honor; but fools shall get shame.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.**

1 Hear, you children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. 2 For I give you good doctrine, do not forsake my Torah. 3 For I was my father's son, tender and the only one in the sight of my mother. 4 He taught me also, and said to me, Let your heart retain my words; keep my commandments, and live. 5 Get wisdom, acquire understanding; forget it not; nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve you; love her, and she shall keep you. 7 The beginning of Wisdom is: Get Wisdom; therefore use all your means to acquire understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she shall promote you; she shall bring you to honor, when you embrace her. 9 She shall give to your head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory shall she bestow on you. 10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of your life shall be many. 11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in paths of rectitude. 12 When you go, your steps shall not be hampered; and when you run, you shall not stumble. 13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her; for she is your life. 14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. 16 For they cannot sleep unless they have done evil deeds; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause someone to fall. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the just is like the shining light, that shines more and more until full day. 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; they know not at what they stumble. 20 My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. 22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. 24 Put away from you a dissembling mouth, and perverse lips put far from you. 25 Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight

before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be firm. 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil.

## **CHAPTER 5**

**For the lips of a strange woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; But her end is bitter like wormwood, sharp like a two edged sword**

1 My son, attend to my wisdom, and bow your ear to my understanding. 2 That you may regard discretion, and that your lips may keep knowledge. 3 For the lips of a strange woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; 4 But her end is bitter like wormwood, sharp like a two edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold of Sheol. 6 She does not take heed to her way of life; her paths wander, and she does not know it. 7 And now listen to me, O you children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. 8 Remove your way far from her, and come not near the door of her house; 9 Lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel; 10 Lest strangers be filled with your wealth; and your labors go to the house of a stranger; 11 And you groan when your end comes, when your flesh and your body are consumed. 12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof! 13 And I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! 14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the assembled congregation. 15 Drink waters out of your own cistern, and running waters out of your own well. 16 Should your springs be dispersed abroad, and streams of waters flow in the streets? 17 Let them be for you alone, and not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed; and rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 Let her be like the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and be you ravished always with her love. 20 And why will you, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of an alien? 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his goings. 22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be caught fast in the cords of his sins. 23 He shall die for lack of instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

## CHAPTER 6

**How long will you sleep, O sluggard?  
When will you arise from your sleep?**

1 My son, if you give surety for your friend, if you have given your pledge for a stranger, 2 If you are trapped with the words of your mouth; if you are taken with the words of your mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and save yourself, when you come into the hand of your neighbor; go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor. 4 Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids. 5 Save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler. 6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise; 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provides her bread in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep, 11 So shall poverty come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man. 12 A base person, a wicked man, walks with a crooked mouth. 13 He winks with his eyes, he taps with his feet, he points with his fingers; 14 Perverseness is in his heart, he plots evil continually; he sows discord. 15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken beyond remedy. 16 There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to him; 17 An arrogant look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that plots wicked plans, feet that swiftly run to evil. 19 A false witness who speaks lies, and he who sows discord among brothers. 20 My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not the Torah of your mother; 21 Bind them continually on your heart, and tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk, it shall lead you; when you sleep, it shall keep you; and when you awake, it shall talk with you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the Torah is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life; 24 To keep you from the evil woman, from the smoothness of the tongue of a strange woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in your heart; nor let her take you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot a man is brought to a piece of bread; and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one go on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? 29 So he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her shall not go unpunished. 30 Do not men despise a thief, even if he steals to satisfy his soul when he is hungry? 31 And if he is caught, he shall restore seven fold; he shall give all the goods of his house. 32 But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does it destroys his

own soul. 33 A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. 34 For jealousy is the rage of a man; and he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35 He will not regard any ransom; nor will he rest content, though you give many gifts.

## **CHAPTER 7**

**Say to wisdom, You are my sister; and call understanding your kinswoman; That they may keep you from the strange woman, from the stranger with her smooth words.**

1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with you. 2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my Torah like the apple of your eye. 3 Bind them on your fingers, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Say to wisdom, You are my sister; and call understanding your kinswoman; 5 That they may keep you from the strange woman, from the stranger with her smooth words. 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the road to her house, 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night; 10 And, behold, there met him a woman dressed as a harlot, and wily of heart. 11 She is loud and stubborn; her feet do not remain in her house; 12 Now is she outside, now in the streets, and lies in wait at every corner. 13 So she caught hold of him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said to him, 14 I have had to sacrifice peace offerings; this day have I paid my vows. 15 Therefore came I forth to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you. 16 I have decked my bed with coverings, with tapestry of fine linen from Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; let us delight ourselves with love. 19 For my husband is not at home, he has gone on a long journey; 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, and will return home at the full moon. 21 With her very pretty speech she seduces him, with her smooth talk she compels him. 22 He goes after her at once, like an ox goes to the slaughter, or like a man in chains to the chastisement of a fool. 23 Till an arrow pierces his liver; like a bird rushes to the trap, and knows not that it is for his life. 24 Listen to me now, O you children, and attend to the words of my mouth. 25 Let not your heart decline to her ways, do not go astray in her paths. 26 For she has cast down many wounded; indeed, many strong men have been slain by her. 27 Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

## CHAPTER 8

**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth, do I hate.**

1 Does not wisdom call? And understanding put forth her voice? 2 She stands at the top of high places by the way, where the paths meet. 3 She cries at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors. 4 To you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. 5 O you simple, understand wisdom; and, you fools, be you of an understanding heart. 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. 7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverse in them. 9 They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge. 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. 11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. 12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find knowledge and discretion. 13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth, do I hate. 14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding; I have strength. 15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. 17 I love those who love me; and those who seek me early shall find me. 18 Riches and honor are with me; enduring wealth and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, better than fine gold; and my produce than choice silver. 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment; 21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth; and I will fill their treasures. 22 The Lord created me at the beginning of his way, the first of his acts of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, even before the earth. 24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth; 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. 27 When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep; 28 When he established the clouds above; when he strengthened the fountains of the deep; 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment; when he appointed the foundations of the earth; 30 Then I was by him, like a little child; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; 31 Rejoicing in his inhabited world; and my delights were with the sons of men. 32 Now therefore listen to me, O you children; for happy are

they who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. 34 Happy is the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoever finds me finds life, and shall obtain favor from the Lord. 36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.

## CHAPTER 9

**Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knows not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.**

1 Wisdom has build her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; 2 She has killed her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. 3 She has sent forth her maidens; she calls on the highest places of the city, 4 Whoever is simple, let him turn in here; as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him: 5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mixed. 6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding. 7 He who corrects a scorner brings shame on himself; and he who rebukes a wicked man brings on himself a blemish. 8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of holy matters is understanding. 11 For by me your days shall be multiplied, and the years of your life shall be increased. 12 If you are wise, you shall be wise for yourself; but if you scorn, you alone shall bear it. 13 A foolish woman is noisy; she is simple, and knows nothing. 14 For she sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, 15 To call passers by who go right on their ways; 16 Whoever is simple, let him turn in here; and as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. 18 But he knows not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

## CHAPTER 10

**Blessings are upon the head of the just; but violence covers the mouth of the wicked**

1 The proverbs of Salomon. A wise son makes a father glad; but a foolish son is the grief of his mother. 2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing; but righteousness saves from death. 3

The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. 4 A slack hand causes poverty; but the hand of the diligent makes rich. 5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; but a son who sleeps during the harvest brings shame. 6 Blessings are upon the head of the just; but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. 7 The memory of the just is blessed; but the name of the wicked shall rot. 8 The wise in heart will heed commandments; but a prating fool will come to ruin. 9 He who walks uprightly walks surely; but he who perverts his ways shall be found out. 10 He who winks the eye causes trouble; but a prating fool will come to ruin. 11 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life; but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. 12 Hatred stirs up quarrels; but love covers all sins. 13 In the lips of him who has understanding wisdom is found; but a rod is for the back of him who is void of understanding. 14 Wise men lay up knowledge; but the mouth of the fool brings ruin near. 15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city; the destruction of the poor is their poverty. 16 The wage of the righteous leads to life; the gain of the wicked to sin. 17 He who keeps instruction is in the way of life; but he who refuses reproof goes astray. 18 He who hides hatred has lying lips, and he who utters a slander is a fool. 19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking; but he who restrains his lips is wise. 20 The tongue of the just is like choice silver; the heart of the wicked is little worth. 21 The lips of the righteous feed many; but fools die for lack of wisdom. 22 The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. 23 It is like sport to a fool to do wrong; likewise it is to a man of understanding to practice wisdom. 24 What the wicked fears shall come upon him; but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. 25 As the stormy wind which passes, so is the wicked no more; but the righteous is an everlasting foundation. 26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him. 27 The fear of the Lord prolongs days; but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. 28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness; but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. 29 The way of the Lord is a fortress to the upright; but it is destruction to the workers of iniquity. 30 The righteous shall never be removed; but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth. 31 The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom; but the perverse tongue shall be cut out. 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked speaks what is perverse.

**CHAPTER 11****A false scale is an abomination to the Lord;  
but a just weight is his delight.**

**1 A false scale is an abomination to the Lord; but a just weight is his delight. 2 When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom. 3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of the faithless shall destroy them. 4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness saves from death. 5 The righteousness of the innocent shall direct his way; but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. 6 The righteousness of the upright shall save them; but transgressors shall be caught by their own lust. 7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation shall perish; and the hope of unjust men perishes. 8 The righteous is saved from trouble, and the wicked gets into it instead. 9 A hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor; but through knowledge shall the just be saved. 10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. 11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted; but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. 12 He who is void of wisdom despises his neighbor; but a man of understanding holds his peace. 13 A talebearer reveals secrets; but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals the matter. 14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. 15 He who gives surety for a stranger shall smart for it; and he who hates surety is secure. 16 A gracious woman obtains honor; and strong men obtain riches. 17 The merciful man does good to his own soul; but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh. 18 The wicked works a deceitful deed; but to him who sows righteousness shall be a sure reward. 19 He who is firm in righteousness will live; so he who pursues evil comes to his own death. 20 Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the Lord; but those who are upright in their way are his delight. 21 Though who join hands for wicked ends shall not go unpunished; but the seed of the righteous shall be saved. 22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a pretty woman who lacks discretion. 23 The desire of the righteous is only good; but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. 24 There is one who gives freely, and yet increases; another one withholds what he should give, and only comes to want. 25 The liberal soul shall be made rich; and he who waters shall be himself be watered. 26 He who withholds grain, the people shall curse him; but blessing shall be upon the head of him who sells it. 27 He who diligently seeks good procures favor; but evil comes to him who searches for it. 28 He who trusts in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish like a green leaf. 29 He who troubles his own**

house shall inherit the wind; and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. 30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he who wins souls is wise. 31 Behold, if the righteous is rewarded on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **The wicked is trapped by the transgression of his lips; but the just shall come out of trouble**

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge; but he who hates reproof is stupid. 2 A good man obtains favor from the Lord; but a man of wicked devices will he condemn. 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness; but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. 4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband; but she who acts shamefully is as rottenness in his bones. 5 The thoughts of the righteous are right; but the counsels of the wicked are deceit. 6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood; but the mouth of the upright saves them. 7 The wicked are overthrown, and are no more; but the house of the righteous shall stand. 8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom; but he who is of a perverse heart shall be despised. 9 Better is a man lightly esteemed who has a servant, than he who honors himself but lacks bread. 10 A righteous man regards the life of his beast; but the heart of the wicked is cruel. 11 He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread; but he who follows vain persons is void of understanding. 12 The wicked craves, he is snared by evil; but the righteous strike root. 13 The wicked is trapped by the transgression of his lips; but the just shall come out of trouble. 14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth; and the reward of a man's hands shall be rendered to him. 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he who listens to counsel is wise. 16 A fool's wrath is immediately known; but a prudent man conceals disgrace. 17 He who speaks truth gives just evidence; but a false witness deceits. 18 There is one who speaks like the piercing of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health. 19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment. 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil; but the counselors of peace have joy. 21 No evil shall happen to the just; but the wicked shall be filled with trouble. 22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord; but those who deal truly are his delight. 23 A prudent man conceals knowledge; but the heart of fools proclaims his foolishness. 24 The hand of the diligent man shall bear rule; but the lazy man shall be under tribute. 25 Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs him down; but a good word makes him glad. 26 The righteous guides his neighbor aright; but the way of the wicked leads

them astray. 27 The lazy man does not roast his catch; but the diligent man will get precious wealth. 28 In the way of righteousness is life; and in its path there is no death.

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **He who guards his mouth keeps his life; but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction**

1 A wise son hears his father's instruction; but a scorner does not accept rebuke. 2 A man shall eat good from the fruit of his mouth; but the desire of the transgressors is for violence. 3 He who guards his mouth keeps his life; but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. 4 The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be richly supplied. 5 A righteous man hates lying; but a wicked man is loathsome, and comes to shame. 6 Righteousness keeps him who is upright in the way; but wickedness overthrows the sinner. 7 There is one who pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; there is one who pretends to be poor, yet has great riches. 8 The ransom of a man's life are his riches; but the poor hears no threat. 9 The light of the righteous rejoices; but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. 10 Only by pride comes quarrel; but with the well advised is wisdom. 11 Wealth acquired by vanity shall be diminished; but he who gathers by labor shall increase. 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but desire fulfilled is a tree of life. 13 Whoever despises the word shall be destroyed; but he who fears the commandment shall be rewarded. 14 The Torah of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the traps of death. 15 Good understanding gives grace; but the way of the transgressors is hard. 16 In everything a prudent man acts with knowledge; but a fool lays bare his folly. 17 A bad messenger falls into mischief; but a faithful envoy brings healing. 18 Poverty and shame come to him who refuses instruction; but he who heeds reproof shall be honored. 19 A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul; but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil. 20 He who walks with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools will suffer harm. 21 Evil pursues sinners; but to the righteous good shall be repaid. 22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren; but the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. 23 Much food is in the well tilled acre of the poor; but sometimes ruin comes for lack of judgment. 24 He who spares his rod hates his son; but he who loves him disciplines him early. 25 The righteous eats to satisfy his soul; but the belly of the wicked suffers want.

## CHAPTER 14

**A wise man fears, and departs from evil;  
but the fool rages, and is confident**

1 The wisdom of women builds her house; but folly plucks it down with her hands. 2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord; but he who is perverse in his ways despises him. 3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride; but the lips of the wise shall preserve them. 4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of the ox. 5 A trusty witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies. 6 A scorner seeks wisdom, and does not find it; but knowledge is easy to him who understands. 7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, for in him you do not perceive the lips of knowledge. 8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way; but the folly of fools is deceit. 9 Fools mock sin; but among the righteous there is favor. 10 The heart knows his own bitterness; and no stranger shares its joy. 11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown; but the tent of the upright shall flourish. 12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end are the ways of death. 13 Even in laughter the heart aches; and the end of that mirth is grief. 14 The dissembler shall have enough of his own ways; and a good man shall find satisfaction in himself. 15 The simpleton believes every word; but the prudent man looks well where he is going. 16 A wise man fears, and departs from evil; but the fool rages, and is confident. 17 He who is soon angry deals foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated. 18 The simple inherit folly; but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. 19 The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. 20 The poor is hated even by his own neighbor; but the rich has many friends. 21 He who despises his neighbor sins; but happy is he who is kind to the humble. 22 Do not those who plan evil go astray? But those who plan good shall enjoy loyalty and truth. 23 In all labor there is profit; but the talk of the lips tends only to penury. 24 The crown of the wise is their riches; but the foolishness of fools is folly. 25 A true witness saves lives; but a deceitful witness speaks lies. 26 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge. 27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the traps of death. 28 In the multitude of people is the king's glory; but in the lack of people is the downfall of the prince. 29 He who is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he who is hasty of spirit exalts folly. 30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy is the rottenness of the bones. 31 He who oppresses the poor blasphemes his maker; but he who has mercy on the poor honors him. 32 The wicked is overthrown through his evil doing; but the righteous has hope in his death. 33 Wisdom

rests in the heart of him who has understanding; but that which is in the midst of fools is made known. 34 Righteousness exalts a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people. 35 The king's favor is turned towards a wise servant; but his wrath is against him who causes shame.

## **CHAPTER 15**

### **Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it**

1 A soft answer turns away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge; but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness. 3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. 4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life; but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. 5 A fool despises his father's instruction; but he who heeds reproof is prudent. 6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure; but in the income of the wicked there is trouble. 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; but the heart of the foolish does not do so. 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but he loves him who follows after righteousness. 10 Correction is grievous to him who forsakes the way; and he who hates reproof shall die. 11 Sheol and destruction are before the Lord; how much more then the hearts of the children of men? 12 A scorner does not like to be reproved; nor will he go to the wise. 13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. 14 The heart of the judicious seeks knowledge; but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil; but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast. 16 Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted ox and hatred with it. 18 A wrathful man stirs up quarrel; but he who is slow to anger appeases quarrels. 19 The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns; but the way of the righteous is level. 20 A wise son makes a father glad; but a foolish man despises his mother. 21 Folly is joy to him who is destitute of wisdom; but a man of understanding walks uprightly. 22 Without counsel purposes are frustrated; but in the multitude of counselors they are established. 23 A man has joy in the answer of his mouth; and a word spoken in due season, how good it is! 24 To the wise the way of life leads upward, that he may depart from Sheol beneath. 25 The Lord will destroy the house of the proud; but he will establish the border of the widow. 26 The thoughts of the wicked

are an abomination to the Lord; but pleasant words are pure. 27 He who is greedy of gain troubles his own house; but he who hates bribes shall live. 28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer; but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. 29 The Lord is far from the wicked; but he hears the prayer of the righteous. 30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart; and a good report makes the bones fat. 31 The ear that listens to the reproof of life abides among the wise. 32 He who refuses instruction despises his own soul; but he who hears reproof gets understanding. 33 The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom; and humility is before honor.

## **CHAPTER 16**

### **Better is a little with righteousness than great income without right**

1 The thoughts of the heart are man's, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord. 2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weighs the spirits. 3 Commit your deeds to the Lord, and your thoughts shall be established. 4 The Lord has made all things for himself; even the wicked for the day of evil. 5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; those who join hands in an evil cause shall not go unpunished. 6 By loving kindness and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil. 7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies be at peace with him. 8 Better is a little with righteousness than great income without right. 9 A man's heart devises his way; but the Lord directs his steps. 10 A divine sentence is in the lips of the king; his mouth does not transgress in judgment. 11 A just weight and scale are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are his work. 12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness; for the throne is established by righteousness. 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him who speaks right. 14 The wrath of a king is like messengers of death; but a wise man will pacify it. 15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is like a cloud that brings spring rain. 16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold; and to get understanding is preferable to silver; 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who guards his way preserves his soul. 18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. 20 He who considers his words shall find good; and happy is he who trusts in the Lord. 21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent; and the sweetness of the lips increases learning. 22 Intelligence is a fountain of life to him who has it; but the chastisement of fools is folly. 23 The heart of the wise teaches his

mouth, and adds learning to his lips. 24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. 25 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end are the ways of death. 26 The worker's hunger works for him; for his mouth urges him on. 27 A worthless man digs up evil; and in his lips there is a kind of burning fire. 28 A perverse man sows quarrels; and a whisperer separates close friends. 29 A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him into the way that is not good. 30 He winks his eyes to plan perverse things; pursing his lips he brings evil to pass. 31 The hoary head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness. 32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. 33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the decision is wholly from the Lord.

## **CHAPTER 17**

### **Better is a dry morsel, and quietness with it, than a house full of feasting with quarrels**

1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness with it, than a house full of feasting with quarrels. 2 A wise slave shall have rule over a son who causes shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brothers. 3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but the Lord tests the hearts. 4 A wicked doer gives heed to false lips; and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue. 5 Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; and he who is glad at calamities shall not go unpunished. 6 Grandchildren are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers. 7 Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is lying speech to a prince. 8 A bribe is a precious stone in the eyes of him who gives it; wherever it turns, it prospers. 9 He who covers a transgression seeks love; but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. 10 A reproof enters more into a wise man than a hundred blows into a fool. 11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; and a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. 12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly. 13 Whoever rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. 14 The beginning of a quarrel is like letting out water; therefore quit the dispute, before quarrel breaks out. 15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them are abomination to the Lord. 16 Why is the purchase price of wisdom in the hand of a fool, seeing he has no sense? 17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. 18 A man who strikes the palm is void of understanding, and becomes surety in the presence of his friend. 19 He who loves quarrel loves transgression; and he who makes his door high seeks

destruction. 20 He who has a crooked heart finds no good; and he who has a perverse tongue falls into mischief. 21 He who begets a fool does it to his sorrow; and the father of a fool has no joy. 22 A merry heart is a good medicine; but a broken spirit dries the bones. 23 A wicked man takes a bribe out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment. 24 Wisdom is before him who has understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth. 25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him. 26 Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike blows to noble men for their integrity. 27 He who has knowledge spares his words; and a man of understanding is slow to anger. 28 Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise; and he who closes his lips is considered a man of understanding.

## **CHAPTER 18**

**A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the trap of his soul.**

1 He who keeps himself apart, desires to satisfy his own vanity; he breaks out against all sound judgment. 2 A fool has no delight in understanding, but only in revealing his heart. 3 When the wicked comes, then comes also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. 4 The words of a man's mouth are like deep waters, and the fountain of wisdom like a flowing brook. 5 It is not good to favor the wicked man, and to deprive a righteous man of justice. 6 A fool's lips enter into quarrel, and his mouth invites a flogging. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the trap of his soul. 8 The words of a talebearer are like delicacies, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body. 9 Also, he who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who destroys. 10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it, and is safe. 11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination. 12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor goes humility. 13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is his folly and shame. 14 The spirit of a man will endure his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear? 15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. 16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men. 17 The one who pleads first seems to be in the right; until the other comes and examines him. 18 The lot causes disputes to cease, and it decides between the mighty. 19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city; and their quarrels are like the bars of a castle. 20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the yield of his lips shall he be filled. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and those who love it shall eat

its fruit. 22 Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord. 23 The poor uses entreaties; but the rich answers roughly. 24 There are men who pretend friendship; and there is a true friend who sticks closer than a brother.

## **CHAPTER 19**

### **He who gives kindly to the poor lends to the Lord; and that which he has given will he pay him back**

1 Better is the poor man who walks in his integrity, than he who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool. 2 Also, it is not good that the soul should be without knowledge; and he who hurries with his feet sins. 3 The foolishness of a man perverts his way; and his heart rages against the Lord. 4 Wealth makes many friends; but the poor is deserted by his neighbor. 5 A false witness shall not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall not escape. 6 Many will entreat the favor of the prince; and every man is a friend to him who gives gifts. 7 All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him? Their word for him is: pursuer. 8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding shall find good. 9 A false witness shall not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish. 10 Luxury is not seemly for a fool; still less for a servant to have rule over princes. 11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger; and it is his glory to overlook a transgression. 12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion; but his favor is like dew on the grass. 13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father; and the disputes of a wife are a continual dropping. 14 House and riches are inherited from fathers; but a prudent wife is from the Lord. 15 Laziness casts into a deep sleep; and the idle soul shall suffer hunger. 16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his own soul; but he who despises his ways shall die. 17 He who gives kindly to the poor lends to the Lord; and that which he has given will he pay him back. 18 Chasten your son while there is hope, and let not your soul spare for his crying. 19 A man of great anger shall pay the penalty; for if you save him, you will only have to do it again. 20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end. 21 There are many plans in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord shall stand. 22 The attraction of a man is his kindness; and a poor man is better than a liar. 23 The fear of the Lord tends to life; and he who has it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited by harm. 24 A lazy man hides his hand in the dish, and will not even bring it back to his mouth. 25 Strike a scorner, and the simple will beware; and reprove one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge. 26 A son who causes shame and

brings reproach ruins his father, and chases away his mother. 27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction, only to stray from the words of knowledge. 28 A wicked witness scorns judgment; and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity. 29 Judgments are prepared for scorers, and flogging for the back of fools.

## **CHAPTER 20**

### **Different weights are an abomination to the Lord; and false scales are not good.**

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is riotous; and whoever is deceived by it is not wise. 2 The fear of a king is like the roaring of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger forfeits his life. 3 It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from quarrel; but every fool will quarrel. 4 The sluggard will not plow because of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. 5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out. 6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find? 7 The just man walks in his integrity; happy are his children after him. 8 A king who sits in the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes. 9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? 10 Different weights, and different measures, both of them are alike an abomination to the Lord. 11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether what he does is pure and right. 12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both. 13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread. 14 It is bad, it is bad, says the buyer; but when he goes away, then he boasts. 15 There is gold, and a multitude of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. 16 Take his garment when he has given surety for a stranger; and take his pledge on behalf of an alien woman. 17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. 18 Every purpose is established by counsel; and with good advice conduct war. 19 He who goes about as a tale bearer reveals secrets; therefore meddle not with him who flatters with his lips. 20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in utter darkness. 21 An inheritance gotten hastily in the beginning will not be blessed in the end. 22 Do not say, I will repay evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save you. 23 Different weights are an abomination to the Lord; and false scales are not good. 24 Man's steps are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way? 25 It is a trap for a man to rashly declare, It is holy, and to

**inquire only after making his vows. 26 A wise king scatters the wicked, and drives the wheel over them. 27 The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly. 28 Love and truth preserve the king; and his throne is upheld by loyalty. 29 The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head. 30 Bruises and wounds cleanse away evil; so does flogging the innermost parts.**

## **CHAPTER 21**

### **Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles**

**1 Like water streams is the king's heart in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he wants. 2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the Lord weighs the hearts. 3 To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. 4 A haughty look, and a proud heart, are the sinful growth of the wicked. 5 The thoughts of the diligent lead surely to abundance; but every one who is hasty comes only to want. 6 The acquiring of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor; they lead to death. 7 The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do justice. 8 The way of some men is crooked and strange; but as for the pure, his work is right. 9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a roomy house. 10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes. 11 When the scorner is punished, the simple man is made wise; and when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. 12 The righteous man who considers the house of the wicked leads the wicked astray to greater evil. 13 Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard. 14 A gift in secret pacifies anger; and a bribe in the bosom strong wrath. 15 It is joy to the just to do justice; but it is the downfall of the workers of iniquity. 16 The man who wanders out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead. 17 He who loves pleasure shall be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil shall not be rich. 18 The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright. 19 It is better to live in the desert, than with a quarrelsome and angry woman. 20 Costly things and oil are treasured in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up. 21 He who follows after righteousness and loving kindness finds life, righteousness, and honor. 22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the fortress in which it trusts. 23 Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles. 24 The proud and haughty, scorner is his name, acts in arrogant wrath. 25 The desire of**

the lazy man kills him; for his hands refuse to labor. 26 He covets greedily all the day long; but the righteous gives and spares not. 27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more, when he brings it with evil intent? 28 A false witness shall perish; but the word of a man who pays attention shall endure. 29 A wicked man hardens his face; but as for the upright, he considers his way. 30 There is no wisdom, nor understanding, nor counsel against the Lord. 31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle; but safety comes from the Lord.

## **CHAPTER 22**

### **The mouth of an alien women is a deep pit; he with whom the Lord is angry shall fall in it**

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver or gold. 2 The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all. 3 A prudent man foresees evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished. 4 The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life. 5 Thorns and traps are in the way of the perverse; he who guards his soul shall be far from them. 6 Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. 7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. 8 He who sows iniquity shall reap vanity; and the rod of his anger shall fail. 9 He who has a generous eye shall be blessed; for he gives of his bread to the poor. 10 Cast out the scorner, and dispute shall go out; indeed, quarrel and abuse shall cease. 11 He who loves purity of heart, and grace is on his lips, the king shall be his friend. 12 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he overthrows the words of the transgressor. 13 The lazy man says, There is a lion outside, I shall be slain in the streets. 14 The mouth of an alien women is a deep pit; he with whom the Lord is angry shall fall in it. 15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. 16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he who gives to the rich, shall surely come to want. 17 Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge. 18 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them inside you; let them be firmly attached to your lips. 19 That your trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to you this day, even to you. 20 Have not I written to you excellent things in counsels and knowledge, 21 That I might make you know the certainty of the words of truth; that you might answer the words of truth to those who send you? 22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor; nor oppress the afflicted in the

gate; 23 For the Lord will plead their cause, and rob the life of those who rob them. 24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man you shall not go; 25 Lest you learn his ways, and get a snare to your soul. 26 Do not be one of those who strike the palm, or of those who are sureties for debts. 27 If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you? 28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which your fathers have set. 29 Do you see a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; He shall not stand before obscure men.

## **CHAPTER 23**

### **Let not your heart envy sinners; but be in the fear of the Lord all the day long**

1 When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you; 2 And put a knife to your throat, if you are a man given to appetite. 3 Do not desire his delicacies; for they are deceitful food. 4 Labor not to be rich; forbear, because you have understanding. 5 Will you set your eyes on it? It is already gone; for riches suddenly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle towards the sky. 6 Do not eat the bread of him who has an evil eye, nor should you desire his delicacies; 7 For he is one who calculates in his heart; Eat and drink, he says to you; but his heart is not with you. 8 The morsel which you have eaten shall you vomit up, and lose your sweet words. 9 Speak not in the ears of a fool; for he will despise the wisdom of your words. 10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the orphan; 11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with you. 12 Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge. 13 Withhold not correction from the child; for if you beat him with the rod, he shall not die. 14 If you beat him with the rod, you shall save his soul from Sheol. 15 My son, if your heart is wise, my heart too shall rejoice. 16 My insides shall rejoice, when your lips speak right things. 17 Let not your heart envy sinners; but be in the fear of the Lord all the day long. 18 For surely there is a future; and your expectation shall not be cut off. 19 Hear you, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way. 20 Be not among wine bibbers; among riotous eaters of meat; 21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. 22 Listen to your father who begot you, and despise not your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. 24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice; and he who begets a wise child shall have joy of him. 25 Your father and your mother shall be glad, and she who

bore you shall rejoice. 26 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. 27 For a harlot is a deep ditch; and an alien woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lies in wait like a robber, and increases the transgressors among men. 29 Who cries woe? Who cries alas? who has quarrels? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who tarry long over the wine; those who go to seek mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly. 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes shall behold strange things, and your heart shall utter perverse words. 34 Indeed, you shall be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies on the top of a mast. 35 They struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, and I did not feel it; When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

## CHAPTER 24

**Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them. 2 For their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief**

1 Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them. 2 For their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief. 3 By wisdom a house is built; and by understanding it is established; 4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. 5 A wise man is strong; and a man of knowledge increases strength. 6 For by wise counsel you shall make your war; and in a multitude of counselors there is victory. 7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; he opens not his mouth in the gate. 8 He who plans to do evil shall be called a mischief maker. 9 The planning of folly is sin; and the scorner is an abomination to men. 10 If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. 11 If you forbear to rescue those who are drawn to death, and those who are ready to be slain, 12 If you say, Behold, we knew it not; does not he who ponders the heart consider it? And he who keeps your soul, does not he know it? And shall he not render to every man according to his deeds? 13 My son, eat honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to your taste; 14 Know that wisdom is such to your soul; when you have found it, then there shall be a reward, and your expectation shall not be cut off. 15 Lie not in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; do not plunder his resting place; 16 For a just man falls seven times, and yet rises up again; but the wicked stumble into calamity. 17 Rejoice not when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the Lord see it, and be displeased, and he turn away his wrath from

him. 19 Do not fret because of evil men, nor should you be envious of the wicked; 20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out. 21 My son, fear the Lord and the king; and meddle not with those who are given to change; 22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knows the ruin of them both? 23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment. 24 He who says to the wicked, You are righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall loathe him; 25 But those who rebuke him shall have delight, and a good blessing shall come on them. 26 He who gives a right answer kisses the lips. 27 Prepare your work outside, and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterwards build your house. 28 Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause; and deceive not with your lips. 29 Say not, I will do so to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to what he has done. 30 I went by the field of a lazy man, and by the vineyard of a man void of understanding; 31 And, behold, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered it over, and its stone wall was broken down. 32 Then I saw, and considered it well; I looked upon it, and received instruction. 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; 34 And poverty will come upon you like a marauder; and want like an armed man.

## **CHAPTER 25**

**He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city  
that is broken down, and without walls.**

1 These are also proverbs of Salomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out. 2 It is the glory of G-d to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter. 3 The sky for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable. 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and a vessel emerges for the refiner. 5 Take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. 6 Do not put yourself forward in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; 7 For better it is that it be said to you, Come up here; than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince whom your eyes have seen. 8 Do not proceed hastily to litigation, lest you know not what to do the end of it, when your neighbor has put you to shame. 9 Debate your cause with your neighbor; and do not reveal the secret of another; 10 Lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your calumny be carried back. 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to a listening ear. 13 As the cold

of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him; for he refreshes the soul of his master. 14 Whoever boasts of a gift which he did not give is like clouds and wind without rain. 15 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone. 16 Have you found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for you, lest you be filled with it, and vomit it. 17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house; lest he become weary of you, and hate you. 18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow. 19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint. 20 As one who takes off a garment in cold weather, and as acid on nitre, so is he who sings songs to a heavy heart. 21 If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 For you shall heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward you. 23 The north wind brings rain; and a backbiting tongue angry looks. 24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a roomy house. 25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so are good news from a far country. 26 A righteous man who falls down before the wicked is like a muddied fountain, and a polluted spring. 27 It is not good to eat much honey; so glory is for men who search glory. 28 He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

## CHAPTER 26

### **As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly**

1 As snow in the summer, and as rain in the harvest, so is honor not fitting for a fool. 2 Like a wandering sparrow, like a flying swallow, a curse that is causeless shall not come. 3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back. 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you become like him. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. 6 He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet, and drinks violence. 7 As the legs of a lame which hang useless, so is a parable in the mouth of fools. 8 As one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a fool. 9 As a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools. 10 A master craftsman performs everything; but he who hires a fool is as he who hires the passers by. 11 As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly. 12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. 13 The lazy man says, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. 14 As the door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man turn on his bed. 15 The lazy man hides his hand in the dish;

and will not even bring it back to his mouth. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men that can give sensible answers. 17 He who passes by, and meddles in a quarrel not his own, is like one who takes a dog by the ears. 18 As a mad man who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 So is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, I was only joking! 20 Where no wood is, there the fire goes out; so where there is no talebearer, the quarrel ceases. 21 As coals are for burning coals, and wood is for fire; so is a quarrelsome man for kindling a quarrel. 22 The words of a talebearer are like delicacies, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body. 23 Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a earthenware dish covered with silver dross. 24 He who hates dissembles with his lips, and harbors deceit in his heart; 25 When he speaks graciously, believe him not; for there are seven abominations in his heart. 26 Thought his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be exposed before the whole congregation. 27 Whoever digs a pit shall fall in it; and whoever rolls a stone, it will return upon him. 28 A lying tongue hates its victims; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

## **CHAPTER 27**

### **Sheol and Avaddon are never full; and the eyes of man are never satisfied.**

1 Boast not yourself of tomorrow; for you know not what today may bring forth. 2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips. 3 A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them. 4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is overwhelming; but who is able to stand before envy? 5 Open rebuke is better than secret love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are profuse. 7 The soul who is sated loathes a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. 8 As a bird that wanders from its nest, so is a man who wanders from his place. 9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; so does the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. 10 Do not forsake your own friend, nor your father's friend; nor go into your brother's house in the day of your calamity; for better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away. 11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me. 12 A prudent man sees the evil, and hides himself; but the simpletons pass on, and are punished. 13 Take his garment when he has given surety for a stranger, and take his pledge on behalf of an alien woman. 14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

**15 A continual dripping in a very rainy day and a quarrelsome woman are alike. 16 Whoever hides her hides the wind, like the ointment of his right hand, which betrays itself. 17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens another. 18 Whoever guards the fig tree shall eat its fruit; so he who waits on his master shall be honored. 19 As in water face answers face, so does the heart of man to man. 20 Sheol and Avaddon are never full; and the eyes of man are never satisfied. 21 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; and a man is judged according to his praise. 22 Though you should grind a fool with a pestle in a mortar among wheat, his folly would not depart from him. 23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and look well to your herds. 24 For riches are not for ever; and does a crown endure to all generations? 25 When the grass sprouts forth, and the young grass appears, and herbs are gathered on the mountains, 26 Lambs shall provide your clothing, and goats the price of a field, 27 And you shall have goats' milk enough for your food, for the food of your household, and for the maintenance of your maidens.**

## **CHAPTER 28**

### **Those who forsake the Torah praise the wicked; but those who keep the Torah strive with them**

**1 The wicked flee when no man pursues; but the righteous are bold as a lion. 2 When a land transgresses its princes are many; but when there is a man of understanding and knowledge, he shall endure. 3 A poor man who oppresses the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaves no food. 4 Those who forsake the Torah praise the wicked; but those who keep the Torah strive with them. 5 Evil men do not understand justice; but those who seek the Lord understand all things. 6 Better is the poor who walks in his uprightness, than a rich man who is perverse in his ways. 7 Whoever keeps the Torah is a wise son; but he who is a companion of riotous men shames his father. 8 He who by usury and unjust gain increases his wealth, gathers it for him who graciously regards the poor. 9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the Torah, even his prayer shall be abomination. 10 Whoever causes the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit; but the upright shall have a goodly inheritance. 11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes; but the poor who has understanding searches him out. 12 When righteous men rejoice, there is great glory; but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves. 13 He who covers his sins shall not prosper; but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy. 14 Happy is the man who fears always; but he who hardens his heart shall fall into mischief. 15 As a**

roaring lion, and a charging bear, so is a wicked ruler over the poor people. 16 The prince who lacks understanding is also a great oppressor; but he who hates covetousness shall prolong his days. 17 If a man burdened with the blood of another flees to the pit, let no man help him. 18 Whoever walks uprightly shall be saved; but he who is perverse in his ways shall fall at once. 19 He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread; but he who follows after vain persons shall have poverty enough. 20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings; but he who makes haste to be rich shall not go unpunished. 21 To have respect for persons is not good; for a piece of bread a man will transgress. 22 He who hastens to be rich has an evil eye, and considers not that want shall come upon him. 23 He who rebukes a man afterwards shall find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue. 24 He who robs his father or his mother, and says, This is no transgression; he is the companion of a destroyer. 25 He, whose heart is greedy, stirs up quarrel; but he who puts his trust in the Lord shall be enriched. 26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool; but he who walks wisely, shall be saved. 27 He who gives to the poor shall not lack; but he who hides his eyes shall have many a curse. 28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.

## **CHAPTER 29**

### **A man's pride shall bring him low; but the humble in spirit shall attain honor**

1 He, who being often rebuked hardens his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, beyond remedy. 2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn. 3 He who loves wisdom makes his father glad; but he who keeps company with harlots wastes his capital. 4 The king by justice establishes the land; but he who exacts gifts overthrows it. 5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet. 6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a trap; but the righteous sings and rejoices. 7 The righteous man knows the rights of the poor; but the wicked does not have that knowledge. 8 Scornful men stir up a city into quarrel; but wise men turn away wrath. 9 If a wise man disputes with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest. 10 The bloodthirsty hate the upright; but the just seek his soul. 11 A fool vents all his anger; but a wise man quietly holds it back. 12 If a ruler listens to lies, all his servants are wicked. 13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together; the Lord gives light to the eyes of both. 14 The king who faithfully judges the poor, his throne shall be established for ever. 15 The rod

and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. 16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; but the righteous shall witness their fall. 17 Correct your son, and he shall give you rest; he shall give delight to your soul. 18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; but he who keeps the Torah is happy. 19 A servant will not be corrected by words; for though he understands he will not answer. 20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. 21 He who pampers his servant from childhood shall have him become his master at last. 22 An angry man stirs up quarrel, and a furious man abounds in transgression. 23 A man's pride shall bring him low; but the humble in spirit shall attain honor. 24 Whoever is partner with a thief hates his own soul; he hears the curse, but discloses nothing. 25 The fear of man lays a trap; but whoever puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe. 26 Many seek the ruler's favor; but a man's justice comes from the Lord. 27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just; and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.

### **CHAPTER 30**

**This is the way of an adulterous woman; she eats, and wipes her mouth, and says, I have done nothing wrong**

1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the burden. Thus says the man: I am weary, O G-d, I am weary, O G-d, and I am consumed. 2 Surely I am more stupid than any man, and do not have the understanding of a man. 3 I did not learn wisdom, nor do I have knowledge of the holy. 4 Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if you can tell? 5 Every word of G-d is proven; he is a shield to those who put their trust in him. 6 Do not add to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar. 7 Two things have I asked of you; do not deny them before I die; 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lies; do not give me poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me; 9 Lest I be full, and deny you, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my G-d. 10 Do not accuse a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be found guilty. 11 There is a generation that curses their father, and does not bless their mother. 12 There is a generation who are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness. 13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. 14 There is a generation, whose teeth are like swords, and their jaw teeth like knives, to devour the poor

from off the earth, and the needy from among men. 15 The leech has two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, four things that never say, It is enough; 16 Sheol; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that never says, It is enough. 17 The eye that mocks at his father, and scorns to obey his mother, will be picked out by the ravens of the valley, and the young vultures shall eat it. 18 There are three things which are too wonderful for me, indeed, four which I know not; 19 The way of a vulture in the sky; the way of a serpent on a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a young woman. 20 This is the way of an adulterous woman; she eats, and wipes her mouth, and says, I have done nothing wrong. 21 For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four it cannot bear; 22 For a slave when he becomes king; and a fool when he is filled with bread; 23 For an unloved woman when she is married; and a maidservant who is heir to her mistress. 24 There are four things on earth which are small, but they are exceedingly wise; 25 The ants are not a strong people, yet they prepare their bread in the summer; 26 The badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their houses in the rocks; 27 The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands; 28 The lizard climbs up with her hands, and she is in kings' palaces. 29 There are three things stately in their tread; four are handsome in their stride: 30 A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turns not away for anyone; 31 A greyhound; a male goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up. 32 If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, lay your hand on your mouth. 33 Surely the wringing of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood; so the forcing of wrath brings forth quarrel.

## **CHAPTER 31**

### **Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised**

1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. 2 What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, son of my vows? 3 Give not your strength to women, nor your ways to those who destroy kings. 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes to say, Where is strong drink; 5 Lest he drink, and forget the decree, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. 6 Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish, and wine to those whose hearts are heavy. 7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. 8 Open your mouth for the

dumb, for the cause of all who are appointed to destruction. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and the needy. 10 A worthy woman who can find? For her price is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband safely trusts in her, and he shall have no lack of gain. 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool, and flax, and works willingly with her hands. 14 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from far away. 15 She rises also while it is yet night, and gives food to her household, and a portion to her maidens. 16 She considers a field, and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds her loins with strength, and makes her arms strong. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is good; her candle does not go out by night. 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. 20 She stretches out her hand to the poor; she reaches forth her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 She makes herself coverlets; her clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments, and sells them; and delivers girdles to the merchant. 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing; and she shall rejoice at the time to come. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the Torah of loving kindness. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but you excel them all. 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own deeds praise her in the gates.

*Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain;  
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